



Diakrisis

A Ministry of Teaching

*But strong meat belongeth to them that are of full age...to discern (diakrisis) both good and evil (Heb. 5:14)
Whom shall He teach knowledge? and whom shall He make to understand doctrine?... (Is.28:9)*

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TA Ministries is a non-profit, non-denominational faith ministry, teaching, informing and equipping the church.

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The members of the advisory panel may not necessarily agree with all the views expressed in this newsletter. We welcome comments and articles contributed by readers. Unless otherwise requested, these may be included in following newsletters at the discretion of the editor.

This newsletter is distributed free of charge. However, because we are a faith ministry, we welcome donations of approx. \$15 per year to cover the cost of production.

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God always gives to us what he requires from us.

Please note new Fax No.: (071) 245580

Editors Comments

In May we completed a mail-out to 700 Pastors across Australia, to inform them of the failure and the dangers of, as well as the false teachings and prophesies of, the 'Toronto Blessing', Word-Faith teaching and Benny Hinn.

The first responses came within 24 hours of the outgoing mail, with phone calls that were rather personal and sometimes angry. One pastor hung up when I finally got to speak by asking a question. Many pastors accused me of being dishonest, having a lack of love, a wrong spirit, blaspheming the Holy Spirit, etc. Most Pastors were simply not willing to discuss the *facts*, claiming they must be *'out of context'*. When I offered to send the full quotes or documentation, most declined to continue. The closed minds of some of these pastors is nothing less than what I have seen when ministering to cult members. A typical response was, *'but we all have some false teaching'*. My question is - do we? If I have any error I want it purged; if it be heresy I want it eradicated!

Out of all those that opposed the mail-out, only *one* pastor was willing to address the facts in the papers. Although we disagreed, I respected this pastor's polite manner and his attention to scripture, in his efforts to convert me to Word-Faith teaching.

Just when I felt sad and disillusioned at the results of the mail-out, some Pentecostal pastors phoned to encourage me! It came as a surprise to know that there are more than a few pastors who have separated from these false teachings and have opposed the direction their church leaders have gone in the past few years. Many admitted that their churches were heading into apostasy. Several requested our offer of free literature and newsletters. In following newsletters we will print many of the mail responses received as well as our replies. The responses have convinced me of several dangers that are now entrenched in at least some church affiliations in Australia:

The biggest sign of danger I see in the church is the rapid growth of false converts - *tares*, (Matt.13:25-40). One sign of this is the 80%+ 'backsliding' rate attributed by many to the 'easy believism' and worldly ecumenical gospel, presented in crusades and in many churches. I am also convinced that 'decisions' made at 'Toronto' type meetings are converts to *'another Gospel'* (Gal.1:6), and *'another Jesus'* (2Cor.11:4).

The second danger I see is the acceptance of a *mixture* of *'leaven'* with the truth, (*sin*-1Cor.5:6-8; Gal.5:9 and *false doctrine*-Matt.13:33; 16:6-12). Repeatedly in the responses from the above mail-out, pastors were only interested in looking at any *truth* in something, rather than the *error*, even when it involved false prophesy and heresy, (on the deity, atonement, etc.). Yet, in regard to error, the Bible expressly commands us to *'purge out the old leaven'*, (1Cor.5:6-8).

One of the functions of the church is surely to teach scripture and to expose and warn against false teachers and their teachings. Paul and other New Testament writers continually warned of deception. Yet today those who dare to warn of false teaching are accused of 'causing division'. Is it those who warn against error that cause division, (did Paul cause division?), or rather those who introduce the error in the first place? I believe those who do not take a stand against error may further divisions caused by false teaching. If we do cause division let it be between truth and error!

We appreciate that pastors may not always be well informed of the winds of error blowing through the church - that is a full-time occupation in itself. Our desire is to help, inform and equip Pastors and Christians with knowledge that will alert them, so they will not be ignorant of the devices of the enemy, (2 Cor.2:11). Sometimes we must know who or what the enemy is before we can counter with true doctrine.

Every week we receive calls from Pentecostals/Charismatics who seek help and are sick of the false teaching, extremes, excesses and the direction that their churches are heading. Please pray for them and their pastors!... We need repentance in this nation! We need a return to holiness in doctrine and practice!... *Even so, come, Lord Jesus!* **Terry Arnold**

Deeper Roots of 'Toronto Blessing'

Most commentators and authors agree that the roots of the 'Toronto Blessing' can be clearly seen in the Vineyard Movement and the Word-Faith teaching. Both these movements were once considered, even by the Charismatic churches, to be at best extreme and at worst heretical. The mainline orthodox churches have certainly opposed these movements in the past.

However, when one investigates and digs deeper, there is another root that goes further back than the obvious roots mentioned above. This root is the '*Latter Rain*' teaching. This teaching puts forth the teaching that there will be a victorious army of Christians to dominate the world in the end times and rule the church like 'super apostles'. This church would bring forth a massive world-wide revival in the end with a display of the gifts of the Spirit even greater than the ministry of Jesus. This teaching can be traced back to the 1950's and late 1940's. It was to bring forth many false prophets (eg. William Branham) who made false prophecies and began to teach heretical doctrines, even to the denial of the trinity. During this period the Charismatic movement was also being birthed and many adherents were swept along with 'Latter Rain' teaching and its false prophets and teachers.

It is interesting to note the conditions of society whenever a new movement comes along. Sociologically, the fifties was a rebellious period as noted by the music of the times. The Charismatic movement did not embrace the orthodox doctrine of the traditional churches but instead left the traditional churches to commence separate churches. It must also be noted that many of the traditional churches were seen to be 'dead' and lacking life and this further caused many people to leave traditional churches and embrace the Charismatic offshoots. Many of these Charismatic pastors had little or no theological training and discipline, and perhaps too easily embraced extremes and excesses. Some commentators believe they brought in a worldliness to their churches and tried to make people feel at home by letting them think they had not really left the world. The music, promotions, hype and gimmicks in many cases aped the world. This writer is convinced that worldliness has been the open door for much deception to enter the church and that at the forefront of every false movement is the spirit of the world, (1Cor.2:12). We have only to look at the advertising for men like Rodney Howard Browne, John Arnott and the 'Holy Spirit Conferences', (which brought Catholics and Evangelicals together), - most exalt the men and women, and Jesus does not even get a mention. Some of the advertising resembles worldly advertising for entertainment spectacles. When did Jesus ever invite people to come to a '*Signs and Wonders*' conference? Rather, he told people to keep quiet about any miracles. The early church did not grow because of signs and wonders but by the Word of God and because of the cross of Christ. They were prepared to die for their faith in Christ.

In the 1980's, some thirty years after the Charismatic movement had begun, the people still felt powerless. It seems the more power one has the more one has to have. Along came John Wimber and his message of *power* healing, *power* evangelism, *power* praise and music and *power* encounters with demons, etc. Wimber was himself an ex-Rock musician and he openly appealed to the heart rather than the head. He took in the Kansas City prophets who had been exposed as false prophets and who were teaching the 'Latter rain' movement. In 1990 Wimber and Vineyard leaders, including the remnants of the Kansas City Prophets, came to England. They prophesied that revival would spread across England in that year. On the final day of that year Paul Cain commanded the Holy Spirit to come down but to no avail. Many Charismatic leaders, including Clifford Hill, (now a staunch opponent of the 'Toronto Blessing'), challenged them to repent. This was rejected. Revival did not come and still has not come to England. In fact, the situation has deteriorated as is clear by several reports of the state of the churches in general. Despite this the 'Toronto Blessing' in England has had one of the largest impacts of any nation. Although the mistake of 1990 was still fresh in many minds, yet many leaders embraced the false teachings and prophecies of the 'Toronto Blessing'. At the root of this is the 'Latter Rain' teaching. Even a casual look at Rodney Howard Browne's teachings and words will show the infection of Latter Rain heresy. Should the supporters of the 'Toronto Blessing' not examine these roots? Should we not learn from past mistakes? In the words of an old song, '*When will we ever learn?*' **Terry Arnold** (For a full treatment of this 'Latter Rain' topic and the roots and history of the Toronto Blessing, see the book '*Weighed and Found wanting - Toronto in Context*' by Bill Randles.)

Tozer on Holiness

(The following extract is taken from '*The Knowledge of the Holy*' by Tozer, P.113)

'The holiness of God, the wrath of God, and the health of the creation are inseparably united. God's wrath is His utter intolerance of whatever degrades and destroys. He hates iniquity as a mother hates the polio that would take the life of her child.

God is holy with an absolute holiness that knows no degrees, and this He cannot impart to His creatures. But there is a relative and contingent holiness which he shares with angels and the seraphim in Heaven and with redeemed men on earth as their preparation for Heaven. This holiness God can and does impart to His children. He shares it with them by imputation and impartation, and because He has made it available to them through the blood of the lamb, He requires it of them. To Israel first and later to His church God spoke, saying, 'Be Ye Holy; for I am holy'. He did not say, 'Be ye as holy as I am holy', for that would be to demand of us absolute holiness, something that belongs to God alone.'

Pain Is a Teacher

'The only thing wrong with any sort of crisis, ...is when we fail to learn from it..Pain is a great teacher. At times I think it is the only teacher, because the world is so full of lies. I think if you discover any truth at all, you've discovered a gem..The more pain you suffer, the better you'll turn out in the end.' (From newsletter '*Fairdinkum*', by Alan, of Guildford, W.A.)

The Remnant - still a Few

Church growth advocates and those teaching a world-wide end-time revival, speak of huge numbers being saved. Although there have been some local revivals in various parts of the world, the number of Christians in the world always has been a very small percentage of the total population, (most say much less than 10%). Nowadays the rate of conversions to Christianity is *not* keeping pace with the huge increase in world population growth!*

This brings us to an important Biblical concept: throughout scripture and history there has always been only a *remnant* who have been righteous in the sight of God. Nowhere in the Bible is there any reference to a world-wide end-time revival with multitudes being saved. In fact the scriptures speak opposite to this, (eg. 1Tim. 4:1; 2Thess. 2:3; 2Tim 4:3,4, etc). The New Testament has only two references to the word '*revive*', (Rom.7:9; 14:9). Both have nothing to do with an end-time revival.

God has always kept a remnant for himself and always provided a way of escape, (e.g. Noah & the ark, Lot & Sodom, etc.). Jesus said the end-time will be like the days of Noah. In Noah's day only *eight* people were saved! There will be '*few*' who will go down the '*narrow road*' and '*many*' who will go down the '*broad road that leads to destruction*', (Matt.7:13,14; Lk.13:23,24). The Bible cannot be clearer when it says: '*...When the Son of Man comes, shall he find faith on the earth?*' (Lk.18:8). **Terry Arnold** *World population is 6 billion and increasing now at 1 billion every 10 years! ('*Population*' - Aust. Conservation Foundation)

The 'Double Portion Anointing' of God! by Mike Claydon

Gilgal represents where you and I live by faith, and not by sight; Bethel is a place of great decisions; Jericho is the sight of spiritual warfare; and Jordon is one of vision and where we receive '*the double portion anointing*'. ...Truly? Yes, according to the teaching of Benny Hinn and printed as an article in the Assemblies of God magazine, '*Australian Evangel*', (May, 1997).

This publication preceded the arrival of Benny Hinn in Australia who was the keynote speaker at the National Conference of AOG in Adelaide mid-May 1997. Mr. Hinn is convinced that a '*double portion anointing*' from God is available to Christians today, and there are 'five keys', (why do there always have to be 'keys' to having God move within Pentecostal circles?), which are to be used to gain this blessing.

He begins his teaching by asking: '*How would you like to receive not only the anointing of the Holy Spirit on your life, but a double portion? You can.*' In a further breathtaking wresting of scripture, he then proceeds to apply Isaiah 49:1-3 to the individual Christian believer! He completes his quotation of these verses with, '*You are my servant...in whom I will be glorified*', omitting the key words - '*oh Israel!*'

When God calls you, says Benny using the key points in the text, he calls you '*from the womb, makes your mouth like a sharp sword, hides you in the shadow of his hand, (separation for preparation), makes you as a polished shaft, (an arrow in His arsenal against the enemy), and desires you to be great in battle, (you are my servant...in whom I will be glorified).*'

To even the least studied Bible scholar it is obvious that Isaiah 49 is a Messianic prophecy and this is confirmed especially in verses 7-10. To have it apply in any way to a Christian today is absolutely impossible!

The reader is then challenged from scriptures dealing with Elijah and his selecting of Elisha as his successor: '*What is God looking for?*', and is told: A man (or woman) who is not afraid to work hard, those that show no reluctance toward the call, ('*God cannot use Christians who are holding back*'), and those that can forget their past. The road to this double portion anointing is apparently marked out by the experiences of Elisha as he was taken to the cities named above by Elijah. When we reach '*Jordan...the double portion...I (you) will begin to see the promises of Heaven that are mine (yours). I (you) will be a force for God. When that glorious double portion comes on your life, you will never be the same. It's resurrection power for kingdom service! Don't let anything hold you back as you travel the road to double portion anointing*'. How you finally realise that you have received such a thing is not revealed.

This is total confusion. Surely God will hold responsible those who print this material as Biblical teaching and allow their adherents to absorb such arrant nonsense as truth. Nowhere does scripture attribute Messianic offices to individual believers, offer a '*double portion anointing*', or teach that journeys made by prophets of old have other deeper interpretations. This is Gnosticism at it's most unintelligible level. The plain meaning of scripture must be torn from it's context for these 'teachers' to successfully 'make merchandise' of naive Christians. And that they are doing.

The recently published book '*The Confusing World of Benny Hinn*' could not have been more aptly titled and should be mandatory reading for all AOG Pastors, subscribers to their publication, and attendees of their National Conference.

How men such as Andrew Evans, Frank Houston, Brian Houston, Alun Davies and Philip Hills, to name but a few 'Assemblies of God in Australia' leaders, could endorse such statements and invite such a man to open their National Conference is deeply baffling and a cause for great concern.

For Benny's enlightenment the Bible offers the following information: '*These things have I written unto you concerning them that seduce you. But the anointing which ye have received of Him abideth in you, and ye need not that any man teach you; but as the same anointing teaches you of all things, and is truth, and is no lie, and even as it has taught you, ye shall abide in Him*', (1Jn.2:26,27). Mike Claydon

There is no error so deadly as that which is mixed with truth!

Demons, Deliverance and Spiritual Warfare

Theologian and renowned Christian author, R. C. Sproul, writes, '*Within Christian circles there has arisen a new concern for ministries of deliverance. Some of these deliverance ministries have developed a bizarre and radically unbiblical view of demon possession and deliverance...I have listened to tapes from well known deliverance ministries in which they teach the signs of a departure of the demon. A sigh, for example, indicated the departure of the demon of tobacco...There are demons for every conceivable sin. Not only must each one of these demons be exorcised, but there are necessary procedures to keep them from returning on a daily basis.*

*I know of no polite way to respond to this kind of teaching. It is unmitigated nonsense. Nowhere in sacred scripture is there to be found the slightest hint of this kind of demonic diagnosis. These teachings cross the line into the sphere of magic and results in serious harm to believers who are duped by them. Sadly, too much concern with Satan and demons means that we focus less of our attention on Christ. That must please Satan, though it certainly is not pleasing to God...All this emphasis on Satan and demons tends to distract us from another very real menace, our own sin...We cannot pass the blame and responsibility for our sin to a controlling demon...We can say that we are tempted or incited or seduced by Satan, but not that we are controlled or coerced by him!**

Ephesians chapter six clearly tells us how to do spiritual warfare and deal with Satan and demons: '***Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that you may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all taking the shield of faith, wherewith you shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the spirit, which is the Word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the spirit...'***

This scripture gives us a list of armour by which we can live in the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, which is sufficient for us. When Satan came to tempt Jesus after His wilderness experience, Jesus did not do any spectacular warfare type prayers or feats as we so often see today. Rather he *simply* and *effectively* quoted the Word of God! This coupled with *holy living* will make the devil flee from us! Terry Arnold * ('*Pleasing God*' by R.C. Sproul, P.90-92)

God can never accept us. However, God has accepted His Son, and if we join ourselves to Him through faith, we will find God's favour. God accepts all who accepts His Son, the Lord Jesus Christ.

Your Comments and Questions

(Views expressed here are not necessarily those of the editor or the advisory panel)

Dear fiends, Thank you for sending your newsletter, etc. so promptly. I have not had the opportunity to read all the material as yet but what I have read has been excellent and helpful. I am sending a donation to your ministry.

I note in the Feb.97 edition of 'Diakrisis' in a letter from a reader, that it was mentioned you had an article in your Oct. issue re. Rick Joyner. Would it be possible to send me a copy of that article please? I have friends who attend 'Woman's Aglow' meetings and Rick Joyner and Francis Frangipanni teachings are very much part of that fellowship at present. It would be good to have some info. to help them evaluate the false teachings of these men.

Thank you once again. I do pray for your ministry and others like it - each contribute to our understanding of what God is doing, and what Satan is also doing to try to hinder God's beautiful and eternal plans in these end times. God bless, Yours in Him, (Mrs. E. M., Gympie, Qld.)

To TA Ministries: I'm very appreciative of the wealth of information provided and may God bless you. Many thanks for the great work you are doing. (J.S., Sydney)

Dear Terry, Could you please forward a newsletter to me. I've just come out of the Charismatic movement. My children are apart from me due to them being in SDA's and Mormons. I am the most persecuted because I am Christian, but most pleased to have found a wonderful fellowship at...Could you put the pastor on your list also please. (M.M., Ferntree Gully, Vict.)

Dear Terry, Received the latest 'Diakrisis' (March) yesterday! It is absolutely excellent!...It is so full of good, sound, no pulled punches teaching! Excellent referencing and research detail - it is probably one of the best discernment newsletters I have read in ten years!...Again this letter is really to encourage and congratulate you on the newsletter. I just know that the circulation will jump as a result of it!...I have already rung several people in...and read them the Tozer statement in the 'quotable' column! (M.C., Sydney)

'Catholics Gay Plea'

'Priests and nuns were among those who attended the first conference of gay and lesbian Catholics...The three day Carlton forum heard gays and lesbians often did not participate in church life for fear of not being accepted...Organisers called on Bishops and priests to accept the holiness of homosexuals' lives.' (Herald Sun, 24/2/97)

Editors Comments: God Forbid that we should call homosexuals and lesbians 'holy'! Holiness is separation from sin and seeing sin the way as God sees it. Homosexuality is sin according to the Bible, (Lev.18:22; Rom.1:26,27; 1Cor.6:9,10; Jude 7; etc.)...Have the days of Sodom returned?

Praise Points

- Praise God that some pastors have responded and recognised the facts in the recent mail-out. Pray that the Spirit of Truth will work in the hearts of all those who read the material.

Prayer Points

- Please pray for wisdom and love as we plan future articles, and for guidance and finance in this growing ministry.

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Subscription Form

I am interested in receiving the monthly TA Ministries newsletters.

Name-----Address-----

-----Phone-----Fax-----Signed-----Date-----

I enclose \$----- as a donation for costs and postage

Dear Terry, My husband has been a subscriber since your first issue in March 1996 and I have written to extend my thanks for this publication. I'm a born again Christian of nearly 2 years and enjoy reading - in particular articles of truth.

May I ask you something though? May I ask you what you perceive as the church's stand on 'slaying in the spirit' or 'being slain'...I have not found any scriptures supporting this matter and am curious as to how this doctrine 'slips through the cracks' of churches, (such as the Assembly of God to name but one), without much ado. To me this form of teaching is on par with the much talked about 'Toronto Blessing' which seems to appear in every issue of 'Diakrisis', and we should be 'warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus', (Col.1:28). I was wondering if you could care to respond with an article in your newsletter, if you are not able to respond personally. Thankyou for your assistance. Yours sincerely, P.S. Thankyou for the article 'An Ex-Mason testifies', (Diakrisis - 6/96). It gave me some insight into this demonic form of religion... (J.C. Coorparoo, Qld.)

Editors Comments: In answer to this letter, in a future newsletter we will include an article on 'Falling in the spirit'. This subject is also treated concisely in the books 'Finding the Balance' and 'Toronto Blessing - Slaying in the Spirit', both available from TA Ministries.

Dear TA Ministries, I would like to thank you for mailing me your 'Diakrisis' newsletter each month. I find it informative reading and agree with so many things you say, and it helps me to be more aware of false teachings.

I would also like to thank you for continuing to mail this literature even though I haven't paid anything as yet. I hope to rectify that now...I would like to ask if it is possible (or am I able) to use some of the items you have in your 'Diakrisis' issues. I noticed in the last issue that you had a couple of good items, e.g. 'The ninety and nine' and 'What is the self life' which I'd love to use. Thanking you again, (R.M., Minchinbury, NSW.)

John Wycliffe

Wycliffe opposed the errors of Catholicism about 150 years before Martin Luther came onto the scene. He said the Pope was representative of the anti-Christ. He translated the scriptures from Latin into the first English version of the Bible. His writings were condemned by the Catholic Church. Thirty one years after his death, Catholic sympathisers dug up his remains, burned them, and threw the remains into a river.

To defeat sin, get rid of its breeding ground

Terry's Itinerary

June 1st. 10am Hervey Bay Church of Christ (071)289375
June 8th. 9.45am Howard Baptist. Ph.(071)294292
June 15th. 10.30am. Atherton Baptist, Nth. Qld. Ph. (070)912997
June 15th. 6.45pm Malanda Grace Baptist, Nth. Qld. (070)968132
June 17th. (Tues.), 18th. (Wed.) 7pm. Atherton Baptist, Nth. Qld. - Seminar on evangelism & witnessing. Ph. (070)912997
June 22nd. 9.30am. Innisfail Baptist, Nth. Qld. Ph. (070)611482
The Nth. Qld. itinerary was not finalised at the time of printing. For details of any further dates and venues in Nth. Qld., (070) 968132

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